GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4491
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
ASHA Workers
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the continuous attacks, rape and manhandling of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Auxilliary Nurse Midwifes (ANM) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether to protect ASHA workers from such incidents Government has asked the States to set up Complaints Committee or Cell headed by a women as per Vishaka guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in consultation with States to protect ASHA workers?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): Public health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure security of health workers including Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Auxilliary Nurse Midwifes (ANM) lies within the domain of the State Governments. The Central Government has been flagging the issue of safety and security of ASHAs from time to time.

(c)&(d): The Central Government has, while drawing attention of the States to the requirement to set up a Complaint Committee or Cell as per Vishaka guidelines that has been promulgated by the Supreme Court, have requested the States to ensure that such Committee are strengthened and activated for addressing issues related to sexual harassment of female health workers. States have also been asked to set up ASHA Ghars/restrooms in public health facilities and set up Grievance Redressal systems for ASHAs. A number of States have set up Grievance Redressal System or designated nodal officers for addressing grievances of ASHAs.